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#**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

re PATENT APPLICATION of

HAIR et al.

Group Art Unit: 2873

Appln. No. 09/261,221

Examiner: E. Lester

Filed: March 3, 1999

Title: OPTICAL VEND-SENDING SYSTEM FOR CONTROL OF VENDING
MACHINE

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DEC 5 - 2001

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

November 8, 2001

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated September 13, 2001, kindly enter the following Amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the following amended claims, the changes to which are indicated in the Appendix hereto.

1. (Three Times Amended) An optical vend-sensing system for control of a vending machine which has at least one mechanism arranged for initiating operation upon selection by a customer for vending an article into a vend space through which the article falls into a customer-accessible hopper, the vend space having a defined lateral width and a defined front-to-rear depth, said vend-sensing system comprising: